REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

I. Status of the Application

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 has been amended to recite an interlabial pad comprising a first absorbent body and a second absorbent body. Support for this amendment is found, for example, in Figures 4(b) and 4(c), which depict interlabial pads having first and second absorbent bodies. Claims 3, 6-8, and 16 have been amended to provide claim limitations with proper antecedent bases. Accordingly, by this Amendment no new matter has been added.

II. Claim Rejections

A. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 8 and 16 have been rejected as being indefinite.

As to claim 8, the Examiner states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the limitations "water permeable surface side sheet in said protruded area" and "said first absorbent body." Claim 1 recites "a water permeable surface side sheet facing or body side" and an "absorbent body being enclosed in the water permeable surface side sheet." Claim 1 has been amended to recite an absorbent that "includes a first absorbent body to form a protruding area." Therefore, claim 1, as amended, recites a water permeable surface side sheet that encloses a first absorbent body in the protruding area. Claim 8, which depends directly or indirectly from claim 1, refers the region of the water permeable surface side sheet enclosing the protruding area, i.e., where the first absorbent body in enclosed. Accordingly, the amendment to claim 1 provides a proper antecedent basis for "water permeable surface side sheet in said protruded area" and "said first absorbent body" and overcomes the rejection of claim 8. Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 8 is requested.

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Claim 16 has been rejected for a lack of antecedent basis for "said mini sheet piece." Claim 16 recites a wrapping body with the features of claim 15 and a folded mini sheet piece. A "mini sheet piece" is only recited in claim 11. Therefore, claim 16 has been amended to depend from claim 11 and to incorporate the wrapping body features of claim 15. Therefore, claim 16, as amended, has an antecedent basis for "said mini sheet piece." Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection to claim 16.

В. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 9-11 have been rejected as being anticipated by McFall et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,183,587).

Claim 5 has been canceled rendering its rejection moot.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a first absorbent body and a second absorbent body enclosed in surface side and back side sheets bonded together. The recited formulas (in particular, bulkiness and width) define a relationship that allows the absorptive capacity of the flat pad to be maximized without degrading wearability. McFall does not disclose first and second absorbent bodies enclosed together between bonded surface side and back side sheets. Therefore, McFall does not anticipate claim 1, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 2, 6, 7, and 9-11 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are novel for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

C. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5 and 9-13 have been rejected as being obvious over Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,595,392), and claims 14 and 15 as being obvious over Johnson in view of Farris et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,131,736).

Claim 5 has been canceled rendering its rejection moot.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a first absorbent body and a second absorbent body enclosed in surface side and back side sheets bonded together. Neither Johnson nor Farris, alone or in combination, suggest first and second absorbent bodies enclosed in bonded surface side and back

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side sheets. Therefore, amended claim 1 is nonobvious over the prior art of record and withdrawal

of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 2-4 and 9-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are nonobvious over the

prior art of record for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Furthermore, with respect to claim 4,

Applicants call the Examiner's attention that claim 4 recites a water permeable inner sheet "on the

garment side surface of said first absorbent body." This inner sheet provides a sanitary barrier at the

point where a finger inserted into the hollow area would contact the first absorbent body. Johnson

does not recite such a feature. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection as to

these claims.

D. Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-4, 10, 12, and 13 have been provisionally rejected as unpatentable over copending

application Serial No. 10/705,408, and claims 1-16 have been provisionally rejected as unpatentable

over copending application Serial No. 10/705,779.

Applicants respectfully request that Applicants be given the opportunity to file a terminal

disclaimer when all the pending claims are deemed to be allowable except for this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the application is

in condition for allowance after a terminal disclaimer is filed. If there are any other issues remaining

which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an

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Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: January 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Bean

Registration No.: 44,528 DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant